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7 JOHN STREET, Theobald's Road, LONDON, W.C.1

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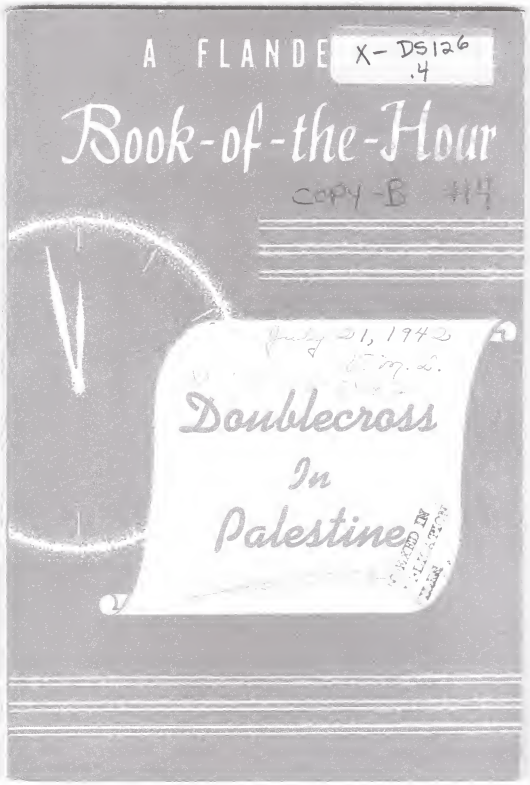
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Bulletin

Volume 2, No. 5-6

COUNCIL ON JEWISH-ARAB COOPERATION
17 EAST 48th ST., NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

PALESTINE: THE EMPIRES vs. THE PEOPLE

Since most accounts of the Palestine situation to date have been distorted or incomplete, this special issue of the BULLETIN *reviews the Palestine political situation. We survey the actions and interests of the Big Three governments, together with the class characteristics of the Arab and Jewish Near East populations. Given the pressure for Jewish immigration, the bi-national character of Palestine, and the role of Palestine in the sparring of the Big Three for economic and military position, we outline political developments emphasizing the possibilities for Jewish-Arab working class political cooperation.*

EMPIRE IN ACTION

The "Palestine problem" can only be understood as a key-piece in an intricate diplomatic game involving the high stakes of oil holdings, military bases, and trade expansion—three requisites for world economic competition. Here we see, from an analysis of the news, the pattern of manipulation and provocation behind the stories of "growing tension in the Middle East," "tragic conflict of Jews and Arabs," and "humanitarian considerations."

On Sept. 20, 1945, Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, just returned from the Middle East, announced in London that "valuable recommendations" regarding Middle East policy had been made in consultation with the British Ambassadors he had visited. No information was vouchsafed regarding the actual decisions reached. The *New York Times* correspondent reporting Bevin's statement, commented: "What political decisions will result . . . remain to be seen." From what has happened in the Middle East since September, one can almost reconstruct the principal directives laid down in those discussions.

Essentially what has been happening is that the British are conducting a "war of nerves" on a large scale, in many ways analogous to that conducted by the Nazis in the Sudetenland. British tactics may be grouped in several categories: picturing Palestine to the outside world as a "difficult problem" with Jewish-Arab violence about to break out at any moment; directly provoking Arabs to riot against Jews; directly provoking Jews to riot against Arabs or even British; indirect provocation of Jews by extreme repressive measures against immigration and development of the Jewish economy.

Immediate Objective: Arabs vs. Jews

Attempts to give the impression of imminent violence began circulating around Palestine in early October. The Jerusalem correspondent of the *New York Times* wrote (10/20) "this city . . . has become a well-oiled rumor mill. Observers seeking clarity in the complex Palestinian question find they spend much of their time tracking down propaganda bubbles that disintegrate into nothingness." In mid-October, the British Army established an information service for foreign correspondents in Palestine. As the left-wing Hebrew daily *Mishmar* put it (10/17): "This news (of the creation of a military information service) cannot but arouse astonishment. We are entitled to ask, what is the war His Majesty's Forces are waging in Palestine, concerning which 'war communiques' have now begun to be issued? . . . Is it perhaps in order to create the impression that war is about to break out between 'the Jews and the Arabs'?" The pro-labor Arab weekly *Al Itichad* complained: "These allegations of imminent disturbances in the country have not the least foundation in actual conditions here. . . ."

The British Government's news agencies also participated. *Davar*, official daily of the General Jewish Federation of Labor, reported (10/14): "In its news broadcast at 9 P.M., Palestine time, on the 12th of October, the B.B.C. stated that during the past twenty-four hours no further news had been received about clashes between Jews and Arabs in Palestine. Since the broadcast did not mention that during those same twenty-four hours there had been no news of clashes between the Flemish and Walloons in Belgium, or between the Italian-speaking and other inhabitants of Switzerland, it may be assumed that the persons responsible for compiling the B.B.C. news bulletins must have sat in their offices throughout those twenty-four hours waiting for a report to come in on a clash between Jews and Arabs in Palestine.

"It can further be assumed that those people were not prompted by their intuition alone, but that someone had tipped them off and told them that such incidents could be expected at any moment. We did not know that the hand of provocation—the hand of those who long for an outbreak of violence between Jews and Arabs—had stretched out as far as the news room of the B.B.C."

In the subsequent month, both press and radio gave the impression that the Near East is "seething with unrest" involving the imminence of violent conflict between Jews and Arabs in Palestine. What was actually happening may be gathered from the following table, which classifies the news regarding Palestine political problems reported in the *New York Times* (10/10 to 11/10), with additional news reported by the *Palcor News Agency*, according to whether they involve TALK or OVERT ACTION, and on the basis of who is acting or talking about whom.

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The Documentary Evidence of How ARAMCO

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Resolution of the United Nations

MEMORANDUM

Submitted to

The President of the United States

June 1948

by

THE NATION ASSOCIATES

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#10

BY

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Published by the
WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL
11, ABBEY ROAD
ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX, ENGLAND

No. 41a
(Magazine)

Price 2d.